

I guess, in a nutshell, he said, "It could have been one of us," and I guess that really characterizes the mood around here these days: It could have been anybody. But it was two heroes who fell for their country, who fell protecting others without hesitation, without question.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not only offer my prayers from my family and the people of Brooklyn and Staten Island to those of the families of Mr. Chestnut and Mr. Gibson, if I did not mention that, right now, there is a young police officer back home in Staten Island who was shot in the head 2 days ago by a 17-year-old boy, this boy who had killed somebody at the age of 15. So I say that as an example in reflection of that dedication of the Capitol Hill Police and police officers around this country who stand in defense of freedom every single day to protect the innocent, to protect us. And while we pray for the families of Mr. Gibson and Mr. Chestnut, may we also pray for Mr. Carter and hope that he recovers and that in Staten Island we have him back protecting us as well.

PROFOUND CONDOLENCES FROM THE 4TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, last Friday a terrible and devastating incident occurred here in the Capitol of our Nation. Inside this glistening white marble building one person changed the lives of two families forever and held a Nation captive as we prayed for the lives of two dedicated police officers who have protected us without as much as a second thought.

In our daily rush we may sometimes forget that the officers we see throughout the buildings are there ready to make the personal sacrifices their duty requires. Staff members sometimes feel frustrated if they are stopped by an officer as they give tours, and interns are sometimes flustered if asked for identification. It is so easy to forget that these officers are trying to protect us despite ourselves.

Winston Churchill once said: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

The recent events bring their duty into clearer focus and force us to realize that, despite our occasional complacency, these officers must be prepared every day to face danger. Last Friday, in little more than a heartbeat, a delusional person was able to cowardly snuff out the life of a dedicated and professional officer. Jacob Chestnut was, however, much more than just a police officer. He was a good husband and father, and he was a caring member of his community and church.

Unfortunately, he was not alone. Officer John Gibson had three children and made time in his life for many others. He was the kind of person who was

willing to dress up as Santa Claus to thrill children at Christmas. As a deputy whip to majority whip TOM DELAY, I came to know John Gibson as a man assigned to protect the majority whip. Many days I would go in the side entrance to the office, and Detective Gibson would be there with his reassuring presence and smile. We all came to know and care for Officer John Gibson.

Despite the tragic turn of events on Friday it is my personal belief that the police security worked. The intruder was stopped before he was able to roam freely throughout the U.S. Capitol Building killing innocent civilians. I am proud of Officers Gibson and Chestnut. I am also proud of all the other officers on duty that day for their quick and professional response in bringing down the alleged killer, helping their fallen comrades and managing the hundreds of people who were either working or touring in the Capitol.

I would also like to express my own profound condolences as well as those of the people of the 4th District of Florida to the families of Officer Jacob Chestnut and Officer John Gibson. May God bless them.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

(Mr. HOUGHTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, so many people have talked so eloquently about these two brave men that I am not going to try to do that. However, in less than an hour and a half we will be having this service in the Rotunda which the President, the Vice President, the members of the Cabinet and Senate and the House are going to be paying their final respects to these two courageous, courageous men. But I guess I ask myself how can we help? What goes on afterwards?

We have had 2 days of mourning. There will be other mournings that go on. But sooner or later those families are going to be on their own, and they are going to need our help, and I hope we can be of help to them whether it is through any contributions we can make to funds, whether it is some help to their children, whether it is in a variety of different ways. I think those are the times when we will be needed.

Also, I would like to feel that we can do what is needed to be done for the Capitol Police in terms of buttressing them and making sure that they have the proper protective equipment.

Another thing I think is that there are a great many people out there who were not in Washington but have the same types of functions, and these people need our protection and our help. I know in my communities and the district in which I live similar people are exposed daily to the type of dangers that these two brave officers were.

And also I think that there are a variety of people who are not in self service but are in service to this country,

whether it is in the military or judiciary or a whole variety of things that really we should be aware of and sensitive to the conditions under which they work.

OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON MADE A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, President Ronald Reagan in his inaugural address talked about a man named Martin Treptoe. Martin Treptoe, like J.J. Chestnut, John Gibson, had not ever been heard of by America before that time, but Martin Treptoe was a baker. During World War I, when it was raging, he volunteered to go to the front. He became a message carrier. He got to the front, and three other message carriers had been killed, but yet Martin Treptoe volunteered again. And like the other three, they found Martin Treptoe dead about halfway to the front, and they found his message pouch, and I would like to quote from that pouch. It says:

"This is a very difficult war. I don't think I will survive. But I must treat every action as if that action determined the outcome of this conflict."

Both J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson treated every one of their actions as if the outcome made a difference for the Members of Congress and the safety of the public. We honor those two individuals today. May God bless.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER J.J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson, and I hope something that has been said over these last 2 days will continue to help and comfort those who mourn.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human morality." Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson truly upheld this lofty standard.

And I also thank all other Capitol Hill Police Officers and all law enforcement officers throughout this Nation who protect us.

As responsible defenders of our country, these two slain officers protected our citizens from mortal danger, and it cost them their very lives. But they protected more than the people around them. Officers Chestnut and Gibson protected the very core of our American society and our belief in the preservation of life and democracy.